

Interview Date: April 28, 2011, 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM EDT

Place: Keating Residence, Muskegon, MI

Interviewee: James Keating

Interviewer: Larry Massie

Attendees: Larry and Priscilla Massie, Tom Beaver (by phone)

Topic: John Fetzer's Spiritual Search

Draft: May 26, 2011

Tom Thanks for doing this, Jim. We don't run the Fetzer Institute or anything, but The Fetzer Memorial Trust is a Trust that's in large part focused on the legacy of John Fetzer. So we're doing a series of interviews with people who knew John, who had early relationships with John—particularly as regards his, John Fetzer's, personal search and his spiritual journey. And Carolyn Dailey actually fingered you as one of the important people to interview regarding the 1970's. So Larry and Priscilla Massie are professional historians, and Larry will primarily conduct the interview, although I might barge in—interrupt here and there—as well to ask follow-ups or ask any questions I might have that Larry doesn't cover.

Jim Sounds good.

Tom With that, I'll turn it over to Larry.

Larry Okay, thanks Tom. Jim, since you've never been interviewed before about this, I wonder if you could fill me in on some of the details of your life prior to meeting John?

Jim How far back do you want me to go?

Larry You know, tell me where you were born and raised and—

Jim I was born and raised in Chicago. When I got to high school, I went to a Catholic seminary at Notre Dame thinking that I would be a priest. So I studied there for eight years. One year in Minnesota was almost total silence, called a novitiate year, when we could only talk for two hours of the day, so it was a very contemplative year. And then I got to final vows, which is different than ordination. The whole program to ordination from eighth grade would be 13 years, but at the end of eight years you had been in temporary vows, for a year, three times. You renewed it each time, and then at the end of that they felt you knew enough to commit. And I realized then I was not going to live a celibate life.

Larry Oh, okay. That's why they have that isn't it, that period?

Jim Yeah, it was very wise. I'm afraid some of my friends and classmates found out later that they weren't able to be celibate. Anyway, I got to finish at Notre Dame. I went into social work in the densest ghetto in Chicago for a summer and realized that I didn't feel like I was really helping anybody, just keeping them alive. And I got frustrated with some things I proposed when I was told. "We don't do that." And I thought well, that's—you can get anybody here to do what I'm doing, and it's just see that the checks arrive and pass papers. So then I went to study for a Masters in counseling at Michigan State. And that's where I met my wife Clare. And while we were there, we were the first group to go on a volunteer project to South America, to Peru.

Larry Was this like in the early 60's?

Jim Yeah, 1963 we were inspired by the Peace Corps. It was all that early rush to the Peace Corps and, you know, do what you can and help; and it was kind of naïve feeling that anybody with a college degree or college education could really help. Well, you can but, I mean, you expect to change the world—and you get as much out of it as they get.

Larry That was a wonderful idealistic program.

Jim Oh, it was. It changes people's lives. I know it changed my life. I mentioned before that two of my kids—well, actually three of my four kids—the other one is divorced. Well, the three kids who are married all married people born in foreign countries, and I think I trace it back to the early volunteer experience because it opened us up. We traveled a lot. We took them with us to Third World countries. They got to meet people and not be afraid of them or not feel different than them. And so I joked later to my kids, I said “I feel like we're stealing the cream of the crop of other cultures” because they're marrying these wonderful, talented, beautiful spiritual people. So after we went on that volunteer project for the summer, we actually signed up for the Peace Corps. And rummaging around today I found a letter that I wrote to the Peace Corps telling them, unfortunately, we were going to have to decline their invitation, because we were accepted and we were going to go to work in Peru again—and we found out she was pregnant. We had had one experience with a member of the group getting appendicitis while we were in Peru—while she and I were teaching a night class—and this woman was rushed to the hospital. The Peruvians were saying, “well, don't get on the first floor. You know the doctors there aren't any good. You've got to get

on the third floor. It's quieter and better doctors." So having a first child, it made us feel a little shaky about having—now looking back I think it would have been fine because the Peace Corps had really good doctors, you know?

Larry And then you went to an Indian reservation?

Jim Oh, yeah. I worked in a small school system, Ovid-Elsie, and they were recruiting people to work. They recruited the principal there to be the head of the school. They were starting up a program—The Michigan Catholic Conference was to train the Indians for employment because there was a lot of unemployment on the reservation. And there were a lot of other people in mid-Michigan, whites, Chicanos, a high concentration of Chicano people, and blacks from Baldwin. So anyway, the principal recruited me because I was director of counseling in the school system. And then he dropped out, but he gave me such a build-up that the people in The Michigan Catholic Conference asked me if I would still be the director of counseling. So I did for two years. And then at the end of that I was looking for a job where I could work in a college and train people to work with disadvantaged populations as I had had the Chicago experience and the reservation experience and the volunteer experience in Peru. I had a friend, an artist in Kalamazoo, Tony Sorce. He worked at Nazareth College and he said well, I think they're looking for someone like that here. So he put me in touch with Sister Mary Bader, the president, and I came down for the interview and got the job there. And that led to my meeting John.

Larry Okay.

Jim My second year at Nazareth, there were two students there, Dan Noteboom and Peter Kettenbeil—an amazing young man; he’s still an amazing man; I’ve kept in touch with him over the years—but they came up to me. I think he was a high school student at the time, but he worked in the kitchen and his father was director of admissions. So they came up to my wife and I and said, “Peter has been reading all these books like Ouspensky, Madame Blavatsky, Teilhard de Chardin, and he was synthesizing all the stuff.” I knew this was unusual for a high school kid to read on his own, and he said, “Look at all this stuff that people are talking about and exploring.” And back then that was like ’68, I think the summer of ’68, end of the summer ’68. And he said, “Let’s start a group and we’ll study ESP and séances and meditation, all these kinds of things.” So Clare liked that idea—Clare Ruth, her name was Ruth at that time, or Clare Ruth is her full name, my wife. She said, “Yeah, let’s do it. We need something that is just for us,” because we were starting to—we had our second child and so we had two kids at that time, and she wanted an activity that drew us together. So we started to meet on Sunday nights at a Nazareth lounge; and it was not an official class. It was just exploratory. Personally, I didn’t like the idea of séances or like Ouija boards and séances or that stuff—that was energy on the other side and I didn’t like—

Larry With the dark side?

Jim Yeah, yeah, that sort of negative idea, but we did get into a lot of things. And Joe Bourdages came along. He was the father of a student at Nazareth and he said, “Oh this is nothing what we’re doing,” you know, ESP and seeing auras and that kind of thing. He said, “I have a brother who’s doing astral projection, and he’s

in Canada and he could come down and teach us.” I said, “What’s astral projecting?” He said, “Well, it’s out of body experience where you can see the past, present, and future.” I believed you could see those things, and so I was intrigued. And so he came down and he taught us. And we had a group of maybe eight people or so, and he had us do a lot of deep meditative stuff for—he said he wouldn’t try to teach us until we had done it at least three sessions of the deep meditation, which was good. And then we—for about two years we did that. And what it convinced me of was that I’ve had past lives, and I was never fascinated with historical novels or things like that. It just didn’t interest me. But when I could see my life ... and we had very common lives. It wasn’t like the Napoleon thing that everybody talks about, and Cleopatra. It was like Joe the Street Sweeper sort of thing. But we would look an hour before death and then we’d go beyond our death, especially if it was going to be a painful death so you wouldn’t relive the emotion. And we’d look back on what we’d learned from that lifetime. And like I saw one lifetime where I was a young boy in prehistoric times. I was going out to search for food and I basically starved to death because I got so far away from home I couldn’t get back in the cold weather; and the lesson I thought I learned that time was survival, you know—which years later I was climbing a mountain and my sleeping bag got lost in Peru, and I had to sleep out in about 15 degree temperature with just a space blanket over me and I threw the packs on me and all the extra clothing I could find and—

Larry So that helped you.

Jim Well I connected it. I thought of it.

Larry Now when this was happening were you—you left your body and were looking down on these other events?

Jim Well, when you—yeah, it would be like laying on the living room floor and just like here or in a basement. We had a carpeted basement. And you would move your astral body, you know, bend a little, do mental movement, and then you'd project outward, yeah. You would look down and then that would usually be the first thing you'd do. You'd look down—

Larry At a different time? You'd be looking at a different time?

Jim No, at the present time. You start in the present time. And then you do some activities to take you backward in time, to a previous lifetime that would maybe be a good insight for you or something. Clare saw a lot of them. I remember seeing about four or five of mine, but she saw many more, and interestingly she felt that one of the lives she had been John Fetzer's mother—and I don't know if he believed that. I think she told it to him one time and as John often did—he would just sort of nod and smile. I remember that one. Sometimes when people would tell him about their financial needs for a program, he'd just kind of nod and smile. It's like well, good luck on that.

Larry Particularly the financial part?

Jim Yeah, right.

Larry Well, so when did he—when did you meet him?

Jim John? Okay that progression, from those meetings and the astral projection and doing stuff in the basement and the lounge at Nazareth, developed into my putting a proposal to the Director of Behavioral Sciences at Nazareth, Bill Fleming. He's

a very open guy and very positive and very supportive. And I said, “You know, we’re doing all these things, and it’s an interesting area. On the national scene people are starting to explore it. Why don’t I do a course in psychic studies?”

The first year we did it, “psychic” was a little too far out of a term, so we called it “Exploring Human Potential. And basically it was an evening class open to the community.

PM What year was that, Jim?

Jim Oh that was around 1970 I’d say, ’70, ’71.

PM Can I just back up for a minute?

Jim Sure.

PM Was that the Les Initiates that you talked about that were from Canada when—
later?

Jim Well, Gaston was the head of the Les Initiates.

PM That you learned your astral projection from.

Jim Right.

PM So that was part of the Les Initiates.

Jim Yeah.

PM Okay.

Jim And they—I think they had learned it from Ken Killick. We found out later that a lot of what they were telling us they had learned from Ken. He was like their spiritual advisor on these things.

PM Oh, I see. Okay, I’m sorry for interrupting.

Jim So I taught that class, and it drew people from—I met a lot of interesting people. Because the typical thing would be someone would say, “I’ve never found anyone I could talk to about this but I’ve had this experience...” And, you know, people had been ridiculed so often for having experiences that you learn just not to share it or to be very careful whom you share these things with. And John was that way. You know obviously he had the baseball, he had the broadcasting, and he had this other area, and he kept them pretty separate, you know?

Larry Yeah.

Jim So after that first year—then the second year we got a little more daring and we called it Introduction to Psychic Studies. And it seemed like the national climate in those years, ’70, ’71, ’72, had changed enough. The national climate had changed enough so you could call it Introduction to Psychic Studies and people would take it seriously. And most of the class—I wasn’t telling them they had to believe anything; I was just saying let’s look at all these things and take the evidence and see what you think.

Larry But you know it’s interesting that they would permit that at Nazareth, you know, which is a religious Catholic college, whereas nothing like that was going on at Western or Kalamazoo Valley, I don’t think, or Kalamazoo College.

Jim The beautiful part at Nazareth was the nuns were very supportive and very open. Not so the bishop. I think we kind of flew under his radar as much as possible. And, in fact, I think when Nazareth finally went under years later, he was never—I think there were two bishops there, but they were never fond of the philosophy

and theology taught at Nazareth, because it was very open. It was exploring, you know, and telling what the basis of the faith was but many people—

PM I always thought it was out there.

Jim Yeah, and George McMorrow was the philosophy instructor and he was strong.

Larry Priscilla knew him very well.

PM He was a godparent to—he was best friends with my grandfather, George was, so I grew up with him.

Jim Who was your grandfather?

PM John Clancy. They both went to Notre Dame together, George and my grandfather.

Jim Oh, okay.

PM He was also a godparent to my brother, George and Betty McMorrow and their whole family. We had seven and they had seven.

Larry The big tragedy when he went blind. That was—

Jim Oh yeah, I can tell you stories about he and I, but it would be a little off the track.

PM Yeah, yeah.

Jim So at the end of that—oh, at about that time John Fetzer sent a letter to the colleges—and this is I think a key point—to Nazareth, to Western, and to K-College. I don't think he sent it to Kalamazoo Valley, and that was pretty early days at Kalamazoo Valley as I remember. And what he was asking was if there's anybody on the faculty who was interested in these kind of areas, and I don't know how he defined the areas. I don't know that he called it psychic.

Larry Paranormal maybe.

Jim Probably paranormal, and that type of thing.

PM And you had already started teaching your classes.

Jim Right, I had been doing those parlor groups and then the classes. So Sister Mary Bader called me in and showed me the letter. And John called a meeting. I don't remember where it was, if we met at his office—I think so. And there was Dick Williams from Western, who was very much into biofeedback at the time and I believe he still is. And then Lonnie Supnick from K-College, and I think that he was the one—I see his name on some of the other stuff later—he was from the psych department at K-College; and I think his main interest was Fetzer obviously has money and if he's interested in doing something locally, you know, you can't go wrong. So I don't think he himself had much interest in the paranormal, but he did, I think, put a proposal in for studying meditative states which would certainly relate. So John met with us and we talked about our ideas.

Larry The three of you and John.

Jim The three of us, right. And then he met with some of us individually. And he and I—from that time on he and I struck up a friendship. And just as a side light, one of the things that John helped me with personally—I don't know if you ever knew this, but growing up in Chicago I was the oldest of nine.

Larry Oh.

Jim We never had much money, you know, and I had kind of a bias toward rich people. So all of a sudden I'm meeting personally after hours with this man who at that time was in the Forbes 500 or whatever—one of the 100 or 500 richest.

Larry This was '71, '72?

Jim Yeah. And so I got to know him as a human being, and I think we helped each other. He didn't know—he said to me something along the line, “I don't have—there's hardly anybody I can talk to about these things.” And that I think was the basis of our relationship. But I think the other thing was I never asked him for money. I wasn't interested. I was interested in, “Here's a man I can learn a lot from and we could do a lot together, you know, in this area.” So I met with him many times. Maybe once every six weeks or so, or two months.

Larry Just you two?

Jim Yeah, just the two of us. I'd come in about 4:30, five o'clock in the evening and at the end of his work day.

Tom Hey Jim, do you have a year for this for sure? Was this '71 or '72?

Jim I can't say exactly. If I find any—I found some of my correspondence, but it's from around '74 when I was submitting proposals to him.

Tom Okay.

Jim But I can't—I was hoping I could find that, Tom.

Tom Would you say the letter that John sent out was probably '71 or '72?

Jim Yeah, I would say '71 to '73 would pretty definitely pinpoint it.

Tom Okay, that's good. (Ed note; it looks like 1972)

Jim And Carolyn—and I met Carolyn through that because she was his secretary.

Larry Carolyn Dailey.

Jim Carolyn Dailey, right. And let's see...

Larry So you'd be meeting down at 590 Maple, at his office?

Jim Right at the broadcast—his office in the broadcasting studio, channel 3.

PM It would just be you and John.

Jim Just me and John, yeah. And I remember little bits of conversation from then.

One, the Tigers were really good then—they won the World Series. And I remember Mark The Bird Fidrych came along (Ed note: this was 1975); and, of course, John was very interested in the mental and thought power and, if you remember, The Bird used to talk to the baseball before he pitched, and people thought it was weird. Of course, John loved it because he could see what the guy was doing, focusing his energy in that. And one thing I regretted was that I never said to John. “If you ever need anybody to drive you down to Detroit for a game, I’d be happy to do it.”

Larry Yeah, he met with Mark and talked about telekinesis, John did.

Jim With Mark Fidrych?

Larry Yeah.

Jim Oh yeah, yeah.

Larry And this was I think maybe ’75 or so.

Jim Okay.

Larry So can you remember any of the things in this early stage that you talked about with John?

Jim I remember one time he said—well, he said he didn’t have anybody he could talk to about this. And he said to me, “You’re a very lucky man;” and again going back to this thing about me having this bias, I said here’s this man who’s one of the richest people in the country telling me I’m a lucky man. It made me re-examine my life.

Larry Because you were able to talk about it.

Jim Oh, I had a lot of friends and a lot of people that were talking about this, and I started to introduce him to them. And I introduced him to Gaston. Unfortunately they made a pitch for money within 20 minutes, half an hour, which I didn't see coming. I didn't know they were going to do that. I thought they just wanted to get acquainted.

Larry You said Gaston?

Jim Gaston.

Larry Oh, that's his last name?

Jim No, he was the brother of Joe Bourdages who were—

PM They were the Les Initiates.

Jim Yeah.

PM Canada.

Jim And so, anyway, John mentioned one time he had been to a baseball meeting and he said, "You never know, sometimes you mention something like Edgar Cayce, or you just say something and the other person picks up on it." And he said he was getting on an elevator and one of the other owners—and I would guess and I'm just guessing, but I would believe it had to be Ted Turner—connected, you know, they connected and found out they had a lot in common. And I remember another thing about John, not particularly about the paranormal or anything, but his sense of fairness. You remember Bill Veeck was, I think, going to become the owner of the White Sox; and he was kind of a character in baseball. He was doing sort of outrageous things, like he put a midget in to bat one time hoping the

guy would get walked or something. But it made a little bit of circus atmosphere. And the owners were meeting, and they said—you know, they had to decide whether Veeck was going to be in or not. And I think they had told him he had to do certain things to get in and they were not leaning toward letting him in, and I don't know if somebody was listening at the door or whether John told me this, but I think I heard it secondhand that he said to the owners, he said, "Let's be fair. We've told him to do these things and he did them. I think we owe it to him to accept him." (Ed note; this was 1975)

Larry Yeah, I recently read about that. They initially voted against it and then he had been very abusive toward John. Called him a "son of a bitch" and different things.

Jim Veeck did?

Larry Yeah.

Jim Oh, I didn't know that part.

Larry But John stood up and gave a speech in his favor and said, "I know he's called me these things and I don't really like to be called that, but let's consider this. He did what he was supposed to," and so they re-voted and got him on.

Jim Wow, that says a lot for John and his sense of fairness. So going back to, let's see, that was—

Larry Did he ever like talk about mediums?

Jim Oh, that was interesting. Yeah, I'm glad you mentioned that. He mentioned that he had been down to Chesterfield, Indiana. I don't know if you know—

Larry Yes, I do. Did he say when?

Jim It was prior to my meeting him, maybe around the same time also, but I think he asked me if I had ever been and at that time I had not. And he said, “You know, they do things like raising trumpets,” and I think a lot of things like that. You know, if you see magicians in Vegas and that—you know, raising a trumpet wouldn’t seem like a big deal if somebody knew what they were doing. And I think John just said these are possibilities and a lot of it depends on if you trust the person doing it, if they’re trying to do some magical trick or if they’re really—

Larry But he was impressed, that being real?

Jim He was just mentioning that those things were going on, and tables raising and that type of thing, but he didn’t quite commit to say that this is, you know, that he was convinced it was real; but I think he felt it was convincing enough to explore.

Larry What about a Ouija board?

Jim I don’t think we talked about Ouija—but I don’t remember if we did.

Larry Did he ever show you that pendulum he had?

Jim Was it in the office?

Larry Well, he carried it around in his pocket, I understand.

Jim Yeah, I think he did.

Larry And he would ask it questions and it would move a certain way.

Jim Oh, okay. We did one time we had him—we used to have him over for dinner a lot. Well, I would say maybe five times he came to the house.

Larry Just him and not Rhea?

Jim Just him. I think Rhea, she was there at least one time (Ed. Note: Rhea accompanied John to the Keating’s house in 1980). Yeah, she was there when we

had Ken Killick over. Ken was from Canada also because I have a photo, and Rhea and John and Ken are at the dining room table. It's not a very good photo. It's kind of blurry, but it reminds me that she was there.

Larry Was your impression that she was open to this paranormal thinking?

Jim I think so. I think so. She wasn't—I don't think she was—I never really heard from her on it. I know she was on a Board later. I was working with a program that had nothing to do with these things and she was on a Board that—I think the Kalamazoo Foundation, they gave us some money, and I think part of it was that John said, "Oh, this is a good program," you know, when they talked. But I don't know her, and she started to be sick then or she was getting sicker when I was getting to know John. So I think that's some of the reason she didn't come after—maybe she only came once or twice.

Larry So do you feel that you were getting to know John prior to his interest in a Course in Miracles?

Jim Yes, he introduced me to it.

Larry He did?

Jim Yeah, he gave me my first book which was—

Larry That would have been 1974 when he got into it, I believe.

Jim Right shortly after. And I don't know—

Larry Or '75, around there.

Jim Yes, '74, '75 in that time period. And I think he said, "Here's something I think you'd be interested in." And he gave it to me and then we started a little while

later. I think Carolyn probably talked about that—we had meetings at the station over lunch hours, I remember.

Larry Over lunch?

Jim Yeah, and it was “A Course in Miracles” kind of study group and meditation.

Larry This was before the Monday night group then.

Jim The Monday night group at—

Larry That used to meet and discuss various things. It would be open to whatever you’d want to bring up about—

Tom Larry, this is prior to that. This is a whole separate thing. I don’t think what was called the Monday night group—that was a different group of people for different reasons. And I think the group that Jim was involved in, that he’s talking about, had completely ended before the Monday night group got going.

Larry Okay.

Jim Yeah, I was jogging my memory with Carolyn and did she give you some names from that group?

Larry Well, I’d like to know them.

Jim There was my wife and I, and then Marian Jager, this woman and—that’s right, I started to tell—mention—I’ll finish with that first—I had her over to dinner to meet John and they were in the same age group. They were about the same age and Marian was an interesting woman. I call her one of the “keepers of the Light” in Kalamazoo for years. She had been doing meditation things and pendulums and all these things; and spiritual things, reading “The Reappearance of the Christ.” In fact, I don’t know if I have that picture still. I’ll look for it later to

show you of Marian with these books. But anyway when she was at the house.

I'm sure we did some pendulum things, she and John, at the dining room table.

Larry Oh, maybe she introduced him to that concept.

Jim I think he knew the concept before that, but the fact that she used that a lot for decision making—and they really hit it off. And she—you know, the actor that was in the Dustin Hoffman Indian movie, was it “Little Big Man?”

Larry Yeah.

Jim Chief Dan George. She looked like she could be Chief Dan George's sister, and she had this wonderful face with a lot of character in it. And her grandfather was Hiram Bingham, who was the guy who discovered Machu Picchu, the ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru—and they say discovered—I get a kick out of it because he was going around looking for ruins. He says to the Indians, “Do you know any good ruins?” They say, “Yep, up on that hill there's a really good one.” They went up there, and he gets credit for discovering Machu Picchu. I guess he discovered for the rest of us in the United States.

Larry Just like Columbus discovered America.

Jim Right, right. Like I'm just discovering you. So they had a nice relationship, and I think they died probably within a year or so of each other. I don't remember exactly, but it seems that would have—she was a wonderful spiritual woman and so she was in—I'm pretty sure she was in that Course in Miracles group. But a woman named Janice Anders, a young woman who died during the course of the group and we had—

PM She had cancer, I believe.

Jim Yeah, I think so. And we had a memorial service like at her apartment. And then Lynn Dailey, of course. And Sue Kemp I believe. She was a woman, we called her the rainbow lady. She was—

Larry From Kalamazoo?

Jim Yeah, she was from Kalamazoo. And then John. And Lynn Dailey was telling me Len Fouchette. I don't remember him, a doctor, MD.

Larry Well, when did Sister Liz get involved in it? (Ed note: Sister Liz was in the "Monday Night Group," not this group)

Jim She got involved a little later. After I wrote a proposal around '74 she started to meet John. I didn't know her while I was at Nazareth. I got to know her more after I left Nazareth. And I think about the time I left Nazareth is about the time she started to connect to John; and I don't know—she could fill you in on those details.

Larry Okay.

Jim There are different people I introduced John to, Gaston and Ken Killick, and Joe Bourdages (Ed note: see p. 5 above). Joe was an interesting guy. He was a factory worker, but he was like Eric Hoffer. Do you remember Eric Hoffer from the 70's, the dock worker who was this great philosopher? Joe Bourdages was like that. He was very well read, and he worked for, was it Eaton? It's a company between—they have a factory between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.

PM Yeah, that's Eaton.

Jim Okay. I think he was in shipping there, and apparently that left him a lot of time during the day to read. You know, he'd be waiting down there, and they'd be

shipping something and he'd have to—so he was doing a lot of this philosophical reading. Instead of just listening to the radio, he was reading all this deep stuff and synthesizing it. And when I wrote this proposal for the Midwest Center at Nazareth, we'll talk about that in a minute, I had him as the assistant director. He had written a book by then called The Orientation to Life, Purpose of Life, Psychic Phenomenon, and Human Potential. So let's see, so we're around—after those courses, I got to know John. I realized from his meeting with Dick Williams and Lonnie Supnick and myself that he wanted to do something in Kalamazoo, and I knew from the conversations that John believed a lot of these things that people thought were ESP and extrasensory.

Larry And UFOs.

Jim Yeah, things like that—that they would scientifically be proven. You know, that there was energy. And I think if you work in broadcasting—we take so much for granted like why when I turn on the TV do these TV waves communicate, and if they're radio waves that communicate to all these radios, why can't thought waves communicate?

Larry It's a natural evolution.

Jim Yeah.

Larry You can't see any of those waves, so maybe there's other ones.

Jim Exactly, exactly. And so he and I were in unison on that with a lot of other people. So anyway, I knew he wanted to start something and he wanted it to be at one of the colleges. He wanted it to be a legitimate thing. He didn't want it to be just some sort of off the wall thing, making a lot of claims and no scientific basis.

He wanted to scientifically prove things. I didn't have much science background.

I had some test and measurements classes in grad school. I got a Masters in counseling. I was pursuing a doctorate through Western Colorado—

Larry So what he wanted was not just a course being taught, it was experiments?

Jim Yeah. The proposal I wanted to—I was writing for him in '74 was to do, to collect data, to like be an information source to him, to do research and to do education. So we were going to be like an educational source. And one of the things I found from—oh, in the proposal I wrote to him. I think I was saying there had been a conference in Kalamazoo and a lot of the people regretted that there wasn't a place where people could go to take classes. Well, not many people apparently knew I was teaching a class at Nazareth. And I think things started to be taught a little later, anyway like at Kalamazoo Valley maybe they had a meditation class or something like that (Ed note: Rich Konieczka) ... but let's see.

Larry So as part of the research, would he want this to be experiments conducted?

Jim Yeah, we talked about that, like—and at that time also Silva Mind Control came on the scene somewhere in the early 70's.

Larry Sister Liz taught that, I understand.

Jim I think she did. I took the Silva Mind Control One and Two, the advanced class. And, in fact, Jose Silva himself came to Nazareth College and taught, I think, part of the advanced, or I don't know if he was there for the—I don't think he did the whole thing, but at least he was there for an evening.

Larry Did John talk about that?

Jim Yeah, we did talk about that, and I was trying to remember if he actually came to one of the classes. Part of my memory—I meant to call the Hardys, Dean and Mary Hardy.

Larry Oh, the Hardys. Now you know I grew up in Allegan and I had heard about them, but I never really met them. They were into pyramid power, weren't they?

Jim Right, right, and that was probably one of the things that I did best in those years—was connect to people and connect people to each other; and I don't know how I met the Hardys. I think they took Silva Mind Control. I think we met in the basic Silva Mind Control class.

Tom Was this in Kalamazoo where you took Silva Mind Control, Jim?

Jim Yes, Tom. It was at Nazareth College, in fact.

Tom Okay.

Jim For some reason, Curt Butters taught it and he—they chose Nazareth. They worked it out with the nuns to teach it there. Kind of another interesting thing about Nazareth was it was very open to things in those days, you know? One of the faculty later told me after I left that I was there during the best time. After I left, it started to change for a variety of reasons. So they (the Hardys) were in that class, and I was doing these Sunday evening groups. And they had an experience where they were coming back from a drive down south and they lost a period of time they couldn't account for—like an hour and a half—and they felt they had been taken up by UFO. They didn't remember it, but all of a sudden they were on the road going in the same direction and an hour and a half or something had lapsed.

Larry Who was this?

Jim Dean and Mary Hardy, and their kids were in the car with them. So they shared these stories with me, and I think they came—I think they also came to my evening class that was open to the community; it was a noncredit class. But an interesting side light to that, one of the people who took that class as a student—she took any of those things I offered of that nature—went on to become an author, Catherine Lanigan, and she ... —I'll try to shorten the story— she was in education, and she left education. She had been discouraged from writing by a teacher at Nazareth and I don't know why. It baffles me, but it turned out to be the right thing because it gave her the drive. You know, when somebody tells you you shouldn't do something—years later she met some writers. They invited her to submit material to their agent. The agent liked what she wrote, and they gave her the contract to novelize “Romancing the Stone” and “Jewel of the Nile.”

Larry Oh, really?

Jim She didn't write the screenplay. They had a screenplay, but she was given the screenplays to make novels out of them. So then she wrote a lot of romance novels, and then more recently she's written three books related to angels and spiritual experiences like Angel Watch, Divine Nudges, and she's working on one or two more. But she was one of those members of those classes, and I still meet with her and some other people—once or twice a year now.

Larry Did John ever talk about angels?

Jim I don't remember that. It's so much—you know and that was like—was that 30 years ago almost, you know? So it's hard to remember the specifics of it. I do

remember a few specifics, but we covered a lot of ground in those discussions.

We would kind of ramble from topic to topic. So I'm sure he believed in angelic presence.

Larry Did he ever talk about the Archangel Michael?

Jim Oh, I'm starting to remember now. The statues—

Larry Was that part of your thinking at that time?

Jim I remember he felt that he had been many people in a past life, and those people were in statues in the original Fetzer Center.

Larry Can you remember when he would have first given you that impression, about past lives?

Jim Sometime in those conversations.

Larry In the early ones?

Jim Yeah, in the early—in the 70's there. Somewhere in that, '70-73 to '75.

Larry Well, that's interesting because we're working on one theory that he began to think more of that through Jim Gordon, but if he did it earlier that's very interesting.

Jim Well, if Jim says that I would trust what he's saying because my memory of it is—of that aspect is kind of cloudy. And I think he may have shared it like around the dining room table with my wife and I—about past lives—because it wasn't the kind of thing you throw out there. I mean, Kalamazoo is a pretty conservative community.

Larry Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Jim He was respected in so many areas, and I would still run into people who would say, you know, “he’s kind of loopy.”

Tom I would guess, Larry, that it predated Jim because Jim, I think, validated about half of the statues that ended up in this—at Fetzer, the statues he had made—only about half of them. So I think he had a lot of these other past life people prior to meeting Jim.

PM He was saying to you that these past lives were specific people?

Jim Yeah, he felt that he had been these people in past lives. I think one of them—was one of them John of God?

Larry Saint John of the Cross.

Jim Saint John of the Cross, okay, and I’m trying to remember—

Larry Joseph of Arimathea.

Jim Arimathea?

Larry Yeah, and Ramses II.

Jim Okay.

Larry And Thomas Jefferson.

Jim There was somebody like—

PM Louis XIV.

Jim I don’t know about Louis XIV but there was—not Charlemagne. Who was one of the—like at the turning point of Christianity or when they kind of enforced Christianity.

Larry We’ve got a record of who those were.

Jim Yeah, I was kind of disappointed when they put those away in the basement or wherever they disappeared to, because I think it was important to John. And I don't know, probably one of the directors felt it was embarrassing.

Larry Well, he spent a lot of money on them.

Jim Yeah. To me, when I would take people there, it was one of the interesting things I would show them.

Larry Did John ever articulate that maybe he had known you in another life?

Jim No, I don't think we ever saw a life where we had been together. He never said it if he did. My wife felt she had been his mother in a past life, and he didn't confirm or deny. He just kind of smiled and—

Larry Because we believe that John had the theory that not only would he reincarnate at the same time, but the same group of people would reincarnate around him working toward a goal.

Jim Yeah.

Larry But you had never heard that.

Jim Well, I've heard that and I believe it, so I don't know how it fits together.

Larry But you weren't one of them that you knew of?

Jim Well I kind of felt that—I didn't see a specific time in a past life when we had been together.

Larry Okay.

Jim But it just felt very good to be working together.

Tom And you know frankly, Larry, that's—again that's a theory. That may have been developed later. And whether John had that strongly—I mean, that's why we're

asking the question, Jim, because we're trying to research when he may have picked up on that theory, or actually whether it may have been something that was picked up by other people later and attributed to him more or less.

Jim Sure. It's the kind of a theory that's been around a lot and you read it in a lot of books and things, so it's hard to—

Larry Oh, about other people other than John?

Jim I mean, just the idea of groups reincarnating together for a purpose, you know. So I can't say definitively except, you know, in discussions we'd go from one thing to another about things of interest to us, common interests. So it's hard to remember when—especially 30 years later—when something new came. We had talked about people we had met in these areas, like I think he told me about Judith Skutch. Oh, and this is an interesting thing to me. He never said this, but I don't know where I got it, the idea that John possibly funded one of the first Course in Miracles printings.

Larry You know that is a theory, but according to Judy it's not true.

Jim Oh okay, Judy would know. Judy would be the—but John was so confidential in his giving, you know, and anonymous. So it wouldn't have surprised me because there was a point when I think they needed some money; but Judy would be the one to know the correct information on that.

Larry Other people have thought that too but according to her, no.

Jim No, okay.

PM Can we go back to the Hardys? We didn't finish that.

Larry Oh okay.

Tom I was starting to ask whether you introduced John to the Hardys.

Jim I believe I did. And I meant to call them to get their memory of when they—

Larry Oh, are they still alive?

Jim Oh yeah, I see them every couple—in fact, I’ll probably see them very soon.

Larry They still live in Allegan?

Jim They still live in Allegan, Dumont Lake. But what happened there was they told me about their experiences on—I mentioned I met them in Silva and I think they came to my evening class. And they had this—I don’t know how they got it—some ideas—I don’t know if it came to them, it would be good to talk to them on this—but to build a pyramid. And its original purpose was to help their son who was—I think he’s kind of autistic, one of their sons, pretty functional but very quiet kid. And anyway, so we listened to them and encouraged them. And she spoke at Clare’s memorial service very briefly and said without her encouragement they wouldn’t have built the pyramids—and I kind of looked around... I didn’t remember being that much of an influence...

Larry What are their first names?

Jim Dean and Mary.

Tom Well, John had UFO interests, too, so I wondered if—Carolyn Dailey had mentioned the Hardys in Allegan, so I wondered if John had interacted with them at all—involved them in his UFO interests at all.

Jim Yeah, he did. I’m sure one of the things we discussed was when they built the first pyramid, there was a doctor living next to them. And it was December around—near Christmas time, I think maybe the week before, and it’s very foggy

over Dumont Lake. And the girl next door was riding home with a friend. And if you ever go to Dumont Lake, you come in kind of a horseshoe way like, you're on this country road and you can look down to where the house is and the pyramid and the lake is. And this girl saw something glowing above the pyramid because they were just saying it's above Hardys garage. And so she got home and she went in the house and she said to her dad, "Look outside." And they could see this thing glowing over the pyramid, like a UFO. And he called the Hardys and said, "You see what you've got in your backyard?" And they looked out, and I think they said it went from there to over the lake then back over the pyramid, then sort of disappeared either into the lake or over the lake. And you should ask the Hardys about that story to get it exact. So I'm sure I shared that with him and those are the kind of things we talked about.

Larry You shared that with John?

Jim That story, yeah.

Larry Okay.

Tom And did that happen right around that time, too, Jim in the early 70's?

Jim Yeah well, I think it was a little later 70's. I left Nazareth at the end of '74, and I still kept meeting with John after that. And I think part of what sort of pulled me away from John is I got a job that took me out of town and it was very demanding and I had to drive to Marshall every day, and all of a sudden I didn't have the time available at four in the afternoon, and by then he had met a lot of other people and he had gotten involved with John Roger and the Coptics and things like that. So let's see, the Hardys—then they built one pyramid, and I actually helped them

build a second one which is—the idea is the first one is a—you receive information and the second one you're supposed to be able to communicate out, and it's never been used. They've sort of kept it sealed. They felt it's not—

Larry Communicate to an astral plain?

Jim Yeah, to some higher—I think to higher beings.

PM These are on their property at Dumont Lake?

Jim Yep, they're on their property. They're still there and people go there and meditate a lot. A lot of us went there during the Harmonic Convergence and meditated in the pyramid.

Tom You're not sure whether John got involved with them personally.

Jim I'm about positive, Tom, that he did.

Tom Okay.

Jim And I wish I could remember how. I would probably believe that I connected them somehow, but I can't remember the exact time or place. I know I told him about them and then told—

Tom We can pursue that. We can ask them too.

Jim Yeah, yeah, I think I even remember their number. I think it's 673-4849.

Larry Good memory.

Tom And what about Ken Killick, Jim? If you—

Larry So did you introduce Ken Killick to John?

Jim Directly or indirectly. I'm having a hard time remembering that. I think he may have been at the meeting with Gaston, and there was an Edith, I think, and probably Joe. There was about five of us met in his office with him, but I can't

remember the specifics. I remember being with them. And then the local branch initiates got more organized, and then at one point we broke away from Gaston. Ken would come down and teach and, you know, like once a month he'd come from Canada and do like a Sunday afternoon session; so John was never involved in those. But I'm just trying to pull a lot of memory together. And Lloyd Swieringa was the local director of the initiates then. And when we broke away from Gaston, basically what was happening was he wanted us to be more obedient to his directives like—

Larry Who did?

Jim Gaston. And to us it wasn't going to be any cult following like, and so we went a little more free; and he called the Americans the young bulls or something. So anyway, he wound up saying "You're still my friends. You'd be welcome in my home, but I'm no longer your teacher." So then we were kind of adrift for a short while. Then we realized Ken had been giving him most of the information, so we connected to Ken directly and he came down and taught us.

Tom And did Lloyd join up with this independently or did he join through—did Lloyd independently join Les Initiates before he started working for John.

Jim Oh yeah, I believe so. Yeah, yeah, I think that was long before. I think—I don't know if Lloyd was at that meeting with Gaston when I introduced Gaston at Fetzer's office. I have a hard time remembering all the people present, but Lloyd was part of the initiates before he connected to John. I think indirectly, you know, I was an indirect link anyway because of the Gaston and Ken Killick connection and the initiates.

Larry Now did Swieringa take over that too?

Jim He was. We voted, and some of them wanted me to run for president and I didn't want to, and we voted and got Lloyd as president. So he was president of Les Initiates and the local—so there was a branch in Canada and a branch here. And that was before we broke away from Gaston—and somewhere in the mid 70's there; if I ever find anything on that I can give you dates but—

Tom And would you say John was part of that group, part of Les Initiates?

Jim No, I don't think he—no he never came to Les Initiates meetings. No, not to my—no, I would have remembered it and no.

Tom Did he get involved with Ken Killick personally?

Jim Yeah, I think through Gaston. And I may have told him that Gaston was getting a lot of his information from Ken. We were all kind of impressed with Ken because he seemed to know so much—and know so much without trying. His wife claimed that she would go to the library and bring home four books and Ken could just put his hand on the books and tell her what was in them, you know? So he had seemed to have a lot of spiritual psychic abilities. But at the same time he had a lot of personal problems.

Larry Well now there was a parting of the ways with Ken and John. Do you know anything about that?

Jim Well, I kind of—that was about the time when Ken stepped in with John. I was not privy to some of that, a lot of that, and I got the impression—then there was a breaking off and I heard secondhand or something, that he felt like Ken was trying to control him or could be controlling—but that was about the time that I

kind of temporarily slipped away from John for a variety of reasons, just practical reasons. Two things: I think there were a lot of other people coming into his life now that he could share these things with, and also that my—you know, now I had four kids and I had a job out of town and stuff like that.

Larry So is this like prior to 1980 when you kind of—

Jim That was kind of in that period, I would say, from maybe—and this is just estimating, I would say—from about '79 to a lot of the 80's or mid 80's.

Larry Oh, into the 80's.

Jim I was just in peripheral contact with John.

Larry So you were in contact when Jim Gordon first came in, and I think are we going to say about 1980, is that right Tom?

Tom Yeah, probably late '80.

Larry Late 1980.

PM Now you mentioned to me the other day that somehow the—Jim Gordon and the Les Initiates and he picked up on that or—

Jim Oh Tom, you were the one who filled me in on this. Les Initiates or the initiates had a what do you call it? Contract or what's the state—to be registered as a nonprofit.

Larry Oh.

Jim And you were the one that—

Tom With the IRS as well.

Jim Right, for IRS purposes. And I think you told me that the Inner Light Ministries wound up with that—that it was transferred over like probably through Lloyd because—

PM Oh, the license to—

Jim Yeah, whatever you call—I'm just searching for the right word.

Larry 501K or something like that.

Tom The tax designation. Yeah, they just put in for a name change and from Les Initiates to Inner Light Ministries and the IRS accepted it.

Jim Yeah, that's the part that you knew. And I didn't know that until just a few years ago when you shared that with me—which I found kind of interesting because I didn't know. That transition was interesting because I was involved with both groups and didn't know it had been passed over.

Tom Yeah, exactly. I had the old paperwork, and I had paperwork for Les Initiates with Lloyd Swieringa as president.

Jim Yeah, he was the president. Well, I don't know if you have that in front of you—just to help jog my memory.

Tom I think in '86 is when it switched to Inner Light Ministries.

Jim Okay, now I'm trying to remember when that big conference was that Fetzer had. I just thought of a story I wanted to share before I forget it. When John used to come over for dinner, you know, it was a lot of fun and we were honored, of course. And it was very low key. But one of the first times he came he was—we invited him like at seven or something. And I was getting out the vacuum cleaner like about 6:25 or something and I look out and a car is pulling up to the curb.

And I said, “Honey there’s a car pulling up to the curb.” She said, “Who is it?” I said, “It’s John.” You know she’s just starting to get the meal ready and everything. So she kind of freaked out and I don’t know if I did a—if people came to parties early, I usually handed them the vacuum cleaner! But anyway, so he shows up and we just kind of pieced things together. So I told him we hadn’t expected him for half an hour. We had gotten our signals crossed and so he—my daughter Christina was about, I would say four, then, this cute curly-haired little kid—and so she said to him, “Will you read me a story?” And so he sat on the couch and he read her the “King, the Mouse, and the Cheese.” And it was delightful to see—I knew he—I felt he always wanted children and he liked the idea of family, you know? It was just delightful to see him on the couch turning the page and reading to Christina about the “King, the Mouse, and the Cheese.” So just kind of a fun memory. Getting back to the Hardys, it’ll be good if you talk to them. They can fill you in on a few details. I know John and I did talk about—we’d talk about UFOs, pyramids and the pyramid energy, and the theory behind the pyramid energy. The Hardys wrote a couple books, most of it from Ken. Originally three of us were going to write the book, Ken, myself, and Mary. And I realized after I wrote about a page and a half that all that I was contributing was what I had learned from Ken. So there was no point in my writing anymore. And Mary had a lot of ideas and I didn’t like the way she was expressing it. I felt she was making it too complicated. And finally I had to say okay, it’s your book. You do it the way you’re going to do it. Because I felt it was starting in too complex a fashion, that it would lose people right off the bat.

Larry They did publish that book?

Jim Yeah, they've got a couple of them. They may still have some copies.

Somewhere I've got copies of them. In fact, I took the photo of them and Ken that's on the back cover of one of them.

Larry Oh.

Jim But yeah, so that's all I can remember—the Hardys and John. When we met or—I'm not really clear on that.

Larry Does the name Joey Jochmans mean anything?

Jim Joey Jochmans. The last name sounds familiar but I can't—

Tom I wonder if you could tell us more about the Course in Miracles group, or that group, sort of a history of what's in the beginning and end and how did it end? When did it start? How and when did it end and what did you guys do? Just whatever you can fill us in on that.

Jim Yeah, my memory of it is it lasted about a year or maybe a little over a year. It was at noontime. I think John asked—I think Carolyn called me and said John wanted to start a group, and I think they asked me if I had any people to suggest and they had some people. I may have been the one who connected Janice Anders. That was kind of an interesting thing. John, on a personal level, his desk was so far from the closest seat. The first time I went in his office, I thought what does this say? I felt like he's across this big room, you know, and I even took pictures of him where he's at a distance. As we—he was not—I don't think he was like a touchy person, you know, but as things progressed he got used to people hugging him and hugging other people and that type of thing. Well, I

think John had always been able to keep his life pretty compartmentalized, and he had his emotional life with Rhea, but all of a sudden with Janice, she got ill and she had other problems too, I think, family situations, and all of a sudden he was involved in these emotional problems, and I just saw kind of a change where he sort of got sucked into this vortex, you know? The emotional lives of people and then Janice died and—but I don't know if he was there, but I remember a bunch of us meeting in her apartment. Her apartment was just like half a block from the station there on Westnedge, just up the hill and it was sort of an eclectic group of people that met at her memorial. There was a Catholic priest and people I knew from different areas that knew her for different reasons. It reminded me of this scene—if you ever saw “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter.” It's a movie and this guy has connections to all these people and when he dies, they're all gathered around his bed and after he's dead, they realize they have nothing in common but him.

Larry So how did that effect John?

Jim Well, this is just my own personal interpretation. It seemed like he stepped back a little bit. He had already gotten—I think that's—I kind of wondered if that helped end the group in his office because it—we got very involved in somebody's emotional situation and their death.

Tom Do you remember what year that was, Jim, when she died?

Jim Oh, I'm sure I can remember. The fact that I was free at noontime and came out—say it was in the '75 to '77, '78 period.

Larry That's about right.

PM Did you feel that he was uncomfortable with this being brought into that situation because, of course, in your field you'd be comfortable?

Jim Yeah, yeah. I felt he was. I felt that he had—because he had all these things he was doing, you know, and he was very busy. And I think when you put your energy in three areas like that wholeheartedly, it's hard to be involved emotionally with people.

Larry There's a lot of psychic energy lost with someone else dying.

Jim Yeah, but I think he—it didn't remove him from people. I think the whole experience with other people and all these groups he started getting involved with, I think he—it loosened him up actually. But I think maybe as far as that Course in Miracles group, that may have been part of the reason it ended. That was just my own personal feeling, you know?

Larry Aside from "A Course in Miracles," did he ever discuss any other literature like the Urantia book?

Jim I think he told me—yeah, we discussed things like "Urantia" and there was—

Larry "Aquarian Gospel?"

Jim The what?

Larry "Aquarian Gospel."

Jim Yeah, "Aquarian Gospel," all those kinds of books. "The Masters of the Far East" he did mention that, and I guess that's been recorded by a lot of people. I thought he gave me his copies of those, but I couldn't find them. I have two copies of those books but we used to have a lending library in our home. We—later we always had meditation groups on Sunday nights, after John died, and "A

Course in Miracles” groups. And we had a lot of spiritual books and we let people borrow them, and I don’t know if I lost that group of books or if I never had his version, but I could find—the ones I have are too clean. The one thing I do have, and I can’t put my hand on it right now, was he gave me some white paper copies of “A Course in Miracles.” These were—I wanted to ask Judith about those. I think these were like the first hundred. (Ed. Note: one of the second hundred copies)

Larry Oh, mimeographed were they?

Jim Yeah, they’re on like mimeograph paper, but they’re bound with a white cover. And he gave me his copies of those before he died. And I showed them to Judith Skutch when she was here for a conference, and she was so impressed because about every line was underlined in the book, so she knew he had thoroughly read them. He was highlighting things that struck him; but just looking at it, it seemed like half the book was underlined.

Larry He did a lot of underlining in books that he liked.

Jim Yeah, and that’s why I don’t think I have his “Masters of the Far East” because there’s no underlinings in it.

Larry Did John ever bring Judith into our Course in Miracles group?

Jim No. I never met Judith until the big conference he had. And my wife and I met her and we talked to her, and then I told her I had that book, the white covered book. And the conference was a couple days long, so the next day I brought it and showed it to her. And she was very pleased to see it. And that was when it came in like three different sections of the book. You had the workbook, etc. I

liked Judith a lot but I think that's the only time we met—I talked to her on the phone. We sent her a manuscript one time. Clare got sort of inspired writing by her, but that's about Judith. Where do you want me to go from here?

Larry Well, I was wondering if you were involved with John Roger and John.

Jim No, that was the kind of period where I was a little distant from John. And he got involved then with—I'm trying to think of the woman's name, Chuck Spence's wife or ex-wife. Cleora, yeah. Her name is Daily, too, wasn't it?

Tom Yes.

Jim And so then I think I went to one of their meetings or one of their open meetings or—was that—what was the name of that group because there was a spin off of that too? They did—

Tom Insight Seminars. Insight.

Jim I did go—I went to Insight One and Insight Two, and I think John went through that also, I believe.

Tom Yeah, I was with him.

Jim Okay, you know more about that—you have all the details on that. Oh, the one thing I didn't talk about was the proposal I wrote. Going back to the part where I knew that John wanted something in Kalamazoo and he wanted it legitimized by being at a university or college. So after talking with him and everything, I submitted a proposal. And there was a second proposal and I'm trying to—I have vague memories of that, but the first one—this was—I submitted it in April of '74 and it's titled the Proposal for a Midwest Center for the Research and Development of Psychic Sciences. And I'll give you a copy of this thing so you

can take it with, but it gives the introduction, general purpose, the three goals, collection of research and resources, active research, and—

Larry Oh, excuse me (turns tape).

Jim Okay.

Larry Okay.

Jim So we're just talking about this proposal, April of '74, and the specific goal is for the collection of research and resources from around the country, information concerning known psychic, sensitive, psychic happenings, conferences related to psychic studies, and then active research. We're going to look into Kirlian photography—had the photo editor at the Gazette who was going to help us. We're going to do some things with Lonnie Supnick from K-College cooperatively. I think that was probably having to do with meditative things. And in addition to that, we're going to do education, so it's going to be a place where we would have classes, and there would be courses and workshops that would be self-supporting. The amusing thing to me now is that I submitted—I think it was for one year, the total budget was \$25,000—under \$25,000.

Larry Where would this have taken place?

Jim It was going to take place at Nazareth College and—

PM How did John respond to it?

Jim Oh, John I'm sure was very... What happened—what sabotaged it—at that time Sister Mary Bader was president of Nazareth and John Lore was vice president, and they were very supportive and couldn't have been more supportive. Mary Bader, however, decided to leave the presidency after so many years and go in

retreat down in Texas for, I think, most of a year. John Lore was not selected to be the president, so he went back to graduate school to get his doctorate, and later he did become president but not for a couple of years. So all of a sudden they brought in an interim president from Western's business department. He was going to "straighten out" Nazareth College.

Larry Who was that, do you remember?

Jim I think his name was Gene Booker. And so anyways, he was so nuts and bolts—and I have some resentment about that time, because he came in, and I think he viewed it as a lot of fluff. But the thing I really resented—I mean, he thought he was going to get Nazareth back on track, and so this proposal was nothing he wanted the college to be a part of, and he was just an interim guy, like there for the summer.

Larry That's too bad.

Jim And so this is a little aside, but I just want to share it. He said to me, "And besides I understand you've been critical of the faculty." And I said, "I haven't been critical of the faculty. Where'd you get that?" And so I went around and talked to my friends, and I said, "Have you ever heard me be critical of any of the faculty?" They said "no." And so I went around to those who I was not as close on the faculty. I said, "Do you feel I'm critical of the faculty members?" They said "no." And so I went back to him and I said, "Well, I can't find anybody who thinks I'm critical of faculty." And he said, "It must have been a couple people or I wouldn't have remembered it." I was kind of fed up then, and I decided—I had been at Nazareth seven years, and I was done doing things I had wanted to do

and had kind of evolved to this point where I was looking for something new. I'd been directing the volunteer program, directing the counseling department, teaching classes, been the foreign student advisor, but I had done it for seven years. And I kept evolving mostly to this area, and I was at a point where I was really interested and fascinated in that. So I thought, well, I'll go and see what else is out there. John Lore, I later told him that story. He said it sounded like the kind of thing Western's business department was telling people—that's a strategy when you want to get rid of somebody. That just gave me a bad feeling. I wasn't going to mention his name, but since you asked.

Larry Well, that's okay. We've got him now.

Jim So anyway, if that would have happened, that would have been the start of what became the Fetzer Institute out west of town. And there was another more modest proposal that I submitted about the same time. I just found it this morning, and it was basically to collect research. I think—I don't know if I was going to start with one, and if they couldn't accept one, see if they could do the other one if we weren't prepared enough to do the one—and it was just basically to gather all the things that are being done around the country in this research on psychic phenomenon, and ESP, and, you know...

Larry Would have been a good project.

Jim Yeah.

Larry A clearinghouse kind of like.

Jim Yeah, a clearinghouse.

PM Did John ever talk to you about being involved in the Fetzer Institute and how it was coming along and things like that, even after you were off doing your other stuff?

Jim Yeah, just sort of peripherally. I wasn't—I think that's when Lloyd and Chuck Spence were in, because I don't know if he—well, I think he appointed them. So there were times there when I was kind of out of the loop, and that would have been one of those times when they ... but then, you know, we were in touch with John so we were invited to the big conference he did.

Larry In '86 there?

Jim I think it was '86. Let's see, yeah.

Larry Where they had—

Jim Judy Skutch was there with Rachel Naomi Remen, Jerry Jampolsky. It was at the Radisson.

Larry Oh, was it?

Jim Yeah, and it may have been earlier because my daughter Christina was home—lovely little story. She—it was broadcasted on TV locally and she was sitting home watching it. And we had—Clare and I had tickets. And Carolyn Dailey was—it was the last day and she said to me, "You know, a lot of people are leaving. If you want to bring someone to dinner, the luncheon, you can." And she knew our daughter Christina was at home, and so I went home and got Christina. And Rachel Naomi Remen was coming off the stage and—or out of the auditorium—and she had a rose that somebody had given her, and Christina went up to her and said, "I just saw you on television at home." Rachel said to

her, basically, the spirit is telling me I should give you this rose, and she gave her the rose. Rachel was a lovely person. Ran into her years later, about five or six years later, when Tina was like junior high, high school age and she was in Washington D.C. Clare went to a workshop and Rachel was there, and I told her the story and reintroduced her to Tina, and said, “This is the girl you gave the rose to five or eight years ago.”

Larry Oh, that’s nice. You know, John had an interest in crystals.

Jim Yeah.

Larry As a healing device—did he ever talk about that to you?

Jim We talked about everything in that area as it would come up. I don’t remember the specific conversations or—

Larry I’m wondering if it came later but if you think he talked to you about it, it would have been in the 70’s.

Jim Yeah, at the time I started meeting with him in the office, we would explore all these things we had heard about, and that we were investigating, or thought was worth exploring, you know; or even things we thought were kind of far out. But he really was a forward thinker.

Larry Oh, yeah.

Jim And you’ve got “The Men of Wengen;” that chapter he talks about the future of America.

Larry Yeah, we’ve recently found out that his first real experience—well, maybe it wasn’t his first, but the first one that convinced him that there was something there. It happened in 1938 when he consulted a clairvoyant in Washington. He

was involved in that 590 case at that time—I don't know if you know about that, but that was a very important case he fought through the entire depression that would determine whether he could broadcast from Kalamazoo, with the directional area. She told him some things and they turned out to be true, and so that kind of launched it.

Jim Yeah. I went to this medium yesterday to—I told you—to communicate with Clare. For Tom, this is Clare's almost year and a half since she's passed now. And there's a medium who had known her. And so anyway one of the first things she said, "Clare says she's doing well. She's fine over here. You get to do the same things, little things you like to do on the other side, like taking walks and watching the birds." And one of her favorite occupations was sitting here watching the birds at this feeder and taking walks in the woods. So when she said that, right away I thought, well, it sounds like she just connected to Clare. Those are the little things that intrigue you and keep you connected or exploring.

Larry And she couldn't have known that, could she?

Jim No, she'd never been to my home. She'd done a reading for Clare like eight years ago, but she didn't remember Clare until I showed her her picture.

Larry Is this person in Muskegon?

Jim She's in Whitehall, just 20 minutes north of here.

Larry Oh, that's fascinating.

Jim Camille Albrecht is her name.

Larry Well, we want to go down to Camp Chesterfield, check that out.

Jim I've gone there a couple times since then. I haven't been there recently, but it's an interesting place, too, and like a lot—in this whole area—

PM Did you go with Clare when you went?

Jim Did I go with Clare? Yeah, two or three times.

PM And what do they do at the camp?

Jim Well, it's interesting. It's a little village. I think the mediums got together—it seemed like the early 1900's, I'm not sure exactly—and they decided to have a place where they're all gathered together. They're very low key. They don't publicize it, as far as I know; you kind of find out about it by word of mouth. And they live in little homes on the grounds. Some of them are there part of the time and away in warmer places other times. But you get readings or they have open chapel where they will come to people in the audience. I think they did—the other time we were there I thought we got a message. I can't remember what it was now.

Larry The public is welcome though?

Jim Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. There's a little—seemed like there's a little gate around it. I mean, like a little almost decorative fence part of it ... anyway, so you feel like it's—

PM Does it remind you of Gilchrist at all? Have you been there?

Jim I know of Gilchrist. I've never been there yet. That fascinates me, too, how all that's developed in the—

PM That's part of the Fetzer Institute now.

Jim One thing that you'll find interesting in Chesterfield that reminds me of when they first built the Fetzer Institute and put in those statues, is they have statues there of the great religious leaders.

Larry Oh, really?

Jim In a semi-circle and it's very reminiscent of John's past life connection.

Larry Of the great spiritualists?

Jim Like Christ.

Larry Not like the Fox sisters.

Jim No, not great mediums. Great spiritual leaders and the time period they came in. So like 300 BC, 200 AD, and it's on a little knoll. It was one of the fascinating parts of it to me. They're kind of honoring all the religious traditions, major religious traditions.

Larry Well, you know this has been great Jim.